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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/798,115	03/10/2004	Joseph M. Asher	069547.0198	5930

5073 7590 12/15/2006

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EXAMINER

PANDYA, SUNIT

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3714

DATE MAILED: 12/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/798,115	ASHER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Sunit Pandya	3714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 September 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/25/06, 10/4/06, 10/30/06</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Oath/Declaration

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's Oath/Declaration meets the standard required by 35 U.S.C. 25 & 115.

Response to Amendment

This action is in response to amendment filed by the applicant on 9/14/2006, wherein claims 1, 15 and 16 was amended and claims 2 and 3 were canceled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1 & 4-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Brenner et al. (US Patent Publication 2003/0144057)

Claim 1: Brenner et al. discloses a wagering facility communicably coupled with a network and operable to:

Receive a bet on a wagering event (figure 1, element 128 and related description thereof), and transmit the bet to the second wagering facility via the network (0047 &

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0048, wherein the first wagering facility can be user computer through which the user makes the selection and the selection is transmitted to the second wagering facility, i.e. OTB). Brenner et al. also disclose a clearinghouse communicably coupled with the network and operable to capture audit information associated with the bet (0047-0048 and 0072-0073, wherein Brenner discloses of a distribution facility whose functions are similar to a clearinghouse). Brenner et al. also discloses a clearinghouse operable to store one or more contract parameters between the first and second wagering facility (0047, 0072-0073, wherein Brenner discloses of a distribution facility whose functions are similar to a clearinghouse). Brenner et al. also discloses receiving result of the wagering game (0049 & 0096, figure 3, element 212), and determines a settlement between the first and the second wagering facilities based upon the result (0058, 0084, 0117, 0118, 0124, wherein the contract info between facilities is inherently stored, because when a winning outcome of a race has been achieved, it is the responsibility of the wagering facility to pay/credit the appropriate amount to the account, and when the winning outcome is not achieved, the wagering facility debts the appropriate amount).

Claims 4 & 6: Brenner et al. discloses receiving a second bet on the wagering event hosted by the second wagering facility (118, wherein wagering facility accepts omni bets, superfectas and double-triple bets, which are constituted as a second bet on a wagering event) and transmitting the bet to the wagering facility via the network (0058). Brenner et al. also discloses clearinghouse operable to capture audit information associated with the second bet (0096 and figure 6, element 350, wherein the transaction history captures audit information associated with the bets).

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Claim 5: Brenner et al. discloses storing contract parameters between the wagering facilities (0115, wherein the data that's being stored also includes different types of bets placed by the wagering facility), and determines a second settlement between the wagering facilities based on the result of the second bet (0116 & 0117).

Claim 7: Brenner et al. discloses a plurality of hubs, wherein each hub is associated with a wagering facility (figure 1, element 102, 104, 106 and 108 & 0047 which are totalisator which act as hub, wherein totalisator communicated between one another using data lines).

Claim 8: Brenner et al. discloses one of the hub being clearinghouse (0047, wherein one of the totalisator performs same function as clearinghouse).

Claim 9: Brenner et al. discloses first wagering facility operable to receive the bet from a local betting terminal or third wagering facility (0058).

Claims 10, 25 & 31: Brenner et al. discloses a simulcast fees owed by the first wagering facility to the second wagering facility (0164).

Claims 11, 23 & 29: Brenner et al. discloses the audit information being a transaction identifier (0071), and also discloses terminal identifier (0073).

Claim 12: Brenner et al. discloses wagering facility transmitting the first bet separately from the second bet (0082, wherein the different bets are transmitted separately and independent of each other).

Claims 13, 24 & 30: Brenner et al. discloses wagering event comprising a horse race (0048).

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Claim 14: Brenner et al. discloses bet transmitted by the wagering facility to be encrypted and the clearinghouse to decrypt the bet to capture the audit information (0058, discloses transmitting the information regarding wager placed from the facility to the clearinghouse, wherein all the information while being transmitted is converted into digital information (0's and 1's), and the information is converted back to non digital form while displayed by the clearinghouse).

Claim 15: Brenner et al. discloses storing account information of first wagering facility and second wagering facility and transfer funds between their accounts (0058, 0084 & 85).

Claims 16 & 28: Brenner et al. discloses clearinghouse further operable to initiate an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) transactions (0035).

Claim 17: Brenner et al. discloses transmitting the bet between the first wagering facility and second wagering facility in real time (0046).

Claim 18: Brenner et al. discloses storing audit information in a log (0164, 0096 and figure 6, element 350, wherein the transaction history captures audit information associated with the bets).

Claim 19: Brenner et al. also discloses clearinghouse operable to capture audit information associated with the second bet (0096 and figure 6, element 350, wherein the transaction history captures audit information associated with the bets).

Claim 20: Brenner et al. also discloses clearinghouse operable to capture audit information associated with the bet (0096 and figure 6, element 350, wherein the

transaction history captures audit information associated with the bets), and receive copy of the bet from the wagering facility (0079).

Claims 21 & 26: Brenner et al. discloses memory for storing contract parameters including audit information associated with bet placed (0103, wherein all the transactional information is stored in memory device in user terminal). Brenner et al. also discloses receiving result of the wagering event (figure 3, step 212 & 0096), and determine the settlement (0058, 0084, 0117 & 0118).

Claims 22 & 27: Brenner et al. discloses storing account information for first wagering facility and second wagering facility (0061 & 103 and figures 1&2). Brenner et al. also discloses a processor (0057), which could be used to transfer funds between accounts (0058, 0084 & 85).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 10/4/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant argues that Brenner fails to teach, suggest, or disclose determining a "settlement between the first and the second wagering facilities as recited in claim 1". The examiner respectfully disagrees with the applicant. According to the Merriam Webster's dictionary, "settlement" is defined as payment or adjustment of an account, Brenner in (0084) teaches of crediting an account if the wager pays off, thus Brenner teaches of settlement between the first and the second facilities.

Regarding the applicant's argument that Brenner teaches of a local betting terminal and not a wagering facility, the examiner respectfully disagrees. Brenner teaches of a distribution facility that takes the wagering from player terminals to the wagering facility (0048 and 0062, wherein the distribution network is capable of being the "middlemen" and provide a communication link between the terminals and the wagering facility).

The applicant argues that, "Brenner fails to teach, suggest or disclose a clearinghouse operable to store one or more contract parameters between the first and the second wagering facilities". The examiner respectfully disagrees with the applicant. Brenner teaches of contract info between facilities being inherently stored, because when a winning outcome of a race has been achieved, it is the responsibility of the wagering facility to pay/credit the appropriate amount to the account, and when the winning outcome is not achieved, the wagering facility debts the appropriate amount, according to the predefined agreement between the facilities.

Regarding the applicant's arguments that Brenner fails to teach, suggest, or disclose that the first wagering facility transmits the first bet separately from the second bet. The examiner respectfully disagrees with the applicant. As recited in the rejection above, Brenner allows of transmitting multiple bets, separate from each other, between the first and the second facility (0082).

Regarding the applicant's argument that "Brenner fails to teach, suggest, or disclose that the clearing house is operable to store first account for the first wagering facility, to store second account for the second wagering facility and to transfer funds

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between the first and the second accounts based upon the settlement determination”.

The examiner respectfully disagrees. Brenner (0058) teaches of creating an account with the totalisator (wherein the totalisator is the wagering facility) and user's account balance and other wagering transactional information is stored in the totalisator, upon receiving a wager from the user's account, the totalisator automatically debits the user's account, and if the user receives a winning outcome the winning funds are automatically transferred into the user account. Thus Brenner inherently teaches of a clearinghouse capable to storing account information and transfer funds between the wagering facilities.

Consequently, for the reason provided above, the rejection is maintained.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

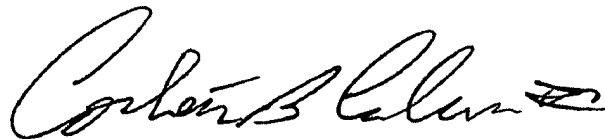
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sunit Pandya whose telephone number is (571) 272-2823. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F: 7:30 am - 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert OLSZEWSKI can be reached on (571) 272-6788. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Corbett B. Coburn", followed by a stylized flourish or mark.

**CORBETT B. COBURN
PRIMARY EXAMINER**